



Family History Library

Summer of Sleuthing—Saving Our Stories

Teenager Family History Summer Challenges

SOS! Your ancestors can be lost in time if you don't do something to ensure they are remembered. You can "throw them a line" by learning about them. We hope that completing these challenges will help you develop a love for your ancestors.

Writing your own story will also help ensure that you are remembered and that your place in your family's collective memory is secure.

Do at least *six* projects to complete the Summer of Sleuthing Challenges

Have a parent initial on the line when the challenge is completed.

___ **T-1** Everyone who participates in Summer of Sleuthing should complete this challenge.

1. Keep a journal for six weeks. If you already keep a journal, continue to write daily about what you are learning as you complete each challenge. If you are not currently keeping a journal, keep one daily during the course of the Summer of Sleuthing Challenges, and write your feelings about what you are learning.
2. Complete a pedigree chart with you as the #1 person on the chart. Also complete one family group record for you as a child with your parents, and one for each of your parents as children. Both the pedigree chart and the family group record can be found online in the Forms folder.

___ **T-2** Write your own life story. Look at the list of suggested questions found in the Activities folder online Questions for a Life Story. You can also search on the Internet for ideas to write your life story. Write about this challenge in your journal.

___ **T-3** Create a project about you, your family, or another relative such as a grandparent. Use your imagination. Here are a few ideas for a project:

- Create a family blog.
- Create a scrapbook
- Create a collage.
- Create a video or DVD.
- Create a time line. For help, see the attached handout on timelines in the Activities folder or see the Web site ourtimelines.com. (See the note below in "Activities in the Family History Library.")
- Create a family Web site.

Your project should illustrate something about you or your family. Share your completed project with your family. Write about this challenge in your journal. (See the note below in “Activities in the Family History Library”.)

- ___ **T-4** Do a service project for an older relative. You could clean the yard, fix something that needs to be fixed, paint something, or clean a room in his or her home. Ask your relative what you can do to help. Write about this challenge in your journal.
- ___ **T-5** Interview one of your grandparents or great-grandparents about his or her life. Use the online handout Suggested Ideas for Interviewing Relatives in the Activities folder. Write down or make an audio or video recording of his or her story, and make copies to share with your relative and your family. Write about this challenge in your journal.
- ___ **T-6** Take a family history class. Classes may be available at your local library, college, university or other learning institution. Write in your journal about what you learned and how it can help you find out more about your ancestors. (See the note below in “Activities in the Family History Library”.)
- ___ **T-7** Sign up for and do at least five hours of FamilySearch indexing at the Web site familysearchindexing.org. Write in your journal about this challenge.
- ___ **T-8** Search for death records on a deceased relative. If your relative is from the United States, look for information in the U.S. Social Security Death Index. This index can be searched on the Web site familysearch.org by clicking on the **Advanced Search**. Other death records, with images, for different states in the United States can be found by clicking **Record Search** on the Web site labs.familysearch.org. There have been many death indexes created throughout the world. Use a search engine to find them online. Write in your journal about this challenge and what you learned about your relative.

** Girl Scouts can do this activity to complete the Religious Diversity patch requirements.

- ___ **T-9** Search for one of your grandparents or great-grandparents in a census record. Census records are available in the United States from 1850 to 1930. You can find the censuses on microfilm or on the Internet. The best online sources are at the Web sites ancestry.com and heritagequestonline.com. (These are subscription Web sites. You may be able to search them free of charge at your local library.) In England, Wales and Scotland, census records are available from 1841 to 1911. England and Wales censuses can be searched at the Web site ancestry.co.uk. Scotland censuses can be searched at the Web site scotlandspeoples.gov.uk. Other countries also have census records and are bringing them online.

Make a transcript or a photocopy of the found census record. Then try and find this same ancestor or their family on another census record. Compare the information between the two census records, and write in your journal about the differences.

- ___ **T-10** Find and read a history about one of your family lines. Search the Web site familysearch.org. Click on **Search**, and select the **Family History Library Catalog**. Do a Surname Search to see if you can find a book about your family’s surname. The catalog will give you the book call number and the film number (if available). Some have been digitized

and are accessible through the catalog on the Internet. Write in your journal about what you learned, and share it with your family.

___ **T-11** Visit a cemetery, and help clean an area there. If you have family members buried there, clean around their graves, and copy the information on their markers. Write about this challenge in your journal.

___ **T-12** Have a family discussion about any of your ancestors who left their native country. Why did they leave? Was it because of religious persecution or in search of religious freedom? Why did they feel it was important to leave? What sacrifices did they make when they left? What was it like in their former country? Write about it in your journal.

**This challenge fulfills activity #6 in the requirements for earning the Girl Scout "Religious Diversity" Patch. Share what you learn with your troop.

ACTIVITIES AT THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY

___ **T-13** To help with challenge T-3, come to the Family History Library, and search the computer desktop. Click on **Especially for Youth** and then click on **Youth 12 to ?**. Next, click on **Your Place in History**. There are instructions on this page for creating a time line.

___ **T-14** To help with challenge T-6, come to the Family History Library and take a class that is offered there.

___ **T-15** Download **Favorites** from the Family History Library computer desktop, and use three of the favorites to find information about your family. Write in your journal about what you learned.